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LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

The members of the Security Council will recall that by its resolution 729 (1992), adopted on 14 January 1992, the Council decided to enlarge the mandate of ONUSAL to include the verification and monitoring of the implementation of all the agreements signed between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), and that it also decided that the mandate of the Mission would be extended to 31 October 1992 and would be reviewed at that time on the basis of recommendations to be presented by the Secretary-General.

It is also worth recalling that the date of 31 October was chosen for the review of the mandate of ONUSAL because, under the terms of the Agreement signed at Mexico City on 16 January 1992 (S/23501, annex), that was the date on which the process of cessation of the armed conflict in El Salvador would be completed. This did not mean that the application of the peace agreements would be completed, but that it would be possible to reduce the military division of ONUSAL and to review the human and material resources needed by the Mission to verify the application of the remaining provisions of the agreements.

As I indicated in my letter of 19 October 1992 (S/24688), because of the difficulties that have emerged, it will not be possible to complete the dismantling of the military structures of FMLN by 31 October 1992. I have therefore presented proposals for overcoming these difficulties to both parties. At the present time, consultations are continuing, and I have recently asked Mr. Marrack Goulding and Mr. Alvaro de Soto to travel to El Salvador for that purpose. I continue to hope that the process of cessation of the armed conflict can be completed towards mid-December, but I do not at present have the information I would need to formulate long-term recommendations to the Security Council regarding the mandate and strength of ONUSAL and their financial implications.

In the circumstances, I can see no other solution than to recommend to the Security Council that it extend the current mandate of ONUSAL for an interim period of one month, that is, until 30 November 1992. I am convinced that, with the cooperation of the two parties to the peace agreements, I shall by then be able to make a specific recommendation on the mandate and strength that ONUSAL will need in order to verify implementation of the final phases of the peace process in El Salvador.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI